

NPL Site Narrative for Triumph Mine Tailings Piles

TRIUMPH MINE TAILINGS PILES

Triumph, Idaho

Federal Register Notice: [May 10, 1993](#)

The Triumph Mine Tailings Piles site consists of two large piles of tailings along the south side of the East Fork Road in a relatively rural area of Blaine County, Idaho. The mine itself, now inactive, is located north of the East Fork Road. The two piles combined occupy approximately 60 acres. The East Fork of the Wood River flows near the southern edge of the tailings piles.

From 1882 until 1957, the Triumph Mine processed ore rich in silver, zinc, and lead. Processing included crushing, grinding, and flotation operations. The slurry remaining from the flotation process was pumped to the upper pile from 1882 to 1930, and to the lower pile from 1930 to 1957.

EPA investigations conducted in 1991 and 1992, have revealed elevated levels of heavy metals in the tailings piles and former mine areas. These metals, such as lead and arsenic, have migrated into residential soil, ambient air, and nearby wetlands. Lead has also been detected above Federal drinking water standards in one of the two community wells on two occasions during spring months.

In cooperation with State and local health agencies, local

residents participated in screening for lead in the bloodstream and arsenic in urine on three occasions. Although the results did document some community exposures, the results were generally not above national averages.

As a result of the investigations, EPA, with assistance from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), an arm of the public health service, is evaluating early action for the site. EPA is working with the community to evaluate options for immediate action that would effectively reduce the potential for human exposure to the metals in the environment. Community interviews were conducted in the spring of 1992 and a community workgroup was recently formed to encourage public participation in the decision-making process.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.